



ZERO BEAT

Southeastern Massachusetts
Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
54 Donald Street
South Dartmouth, MA 02748



OUR 66th YEAR

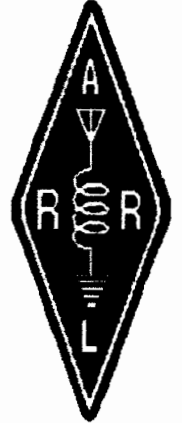
Volume 34, Issue 8

❖ SEMARA ❖

August 1998

CLUB MEMBER ANTONE "TONY" DUARTE WINS 1997 HIRAM PERCY MAXIM MEMORIAL AWARD

Just as this issue of Zero Beat went to press, we learned that the ARRL Board of Directors announced that club member Antone "Tony" Duarte, N1XRS, of Dartmouth is the 1997 national winner of the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. The award goes annually to an amateur under age 21 who has demonstrated exemplary ham radio contributions and accomplishments. Tony (age 16) was nominated by ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Lawrence Ober, W1MW, who received a dozen letters supporting the nomination. Nominators cited Tony's active participation in ARES and SKYWARN and his extensive record of public service contributions. The award carries a one-thousand dollar stipend, an engraved plaque, and a trip to an ARRL convention for a formal award presentation. *Congratulations Tony!*



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The July business meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Rick Cabral. Twenty-two members and two guests were present. Following the salute to the flag and roll call, the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Committee reports followed: *Technical* - The 2 meter amplifier donated to club by "Rocky" Pimentel, K1VJZ, to be checked out for possible repeater use. *Buildings and Grounds* - Storage cabinets have been installed in the radio room for use by the radio class. *Scholarship* - None. *Tower Committee* - AT&T will be contacted this month to see if they are interested in installing a tower. *Code Class* - Planning meetings being held. Training material being gathered for the class.

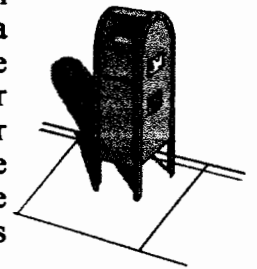
Communications - A letter of appreciation from "Rocky" Pimentel was read. (A life membership was bestowed on him recently.)

Ratifications - Mike Reale, KB1CHQ, was voted a Conditional member of the association.

Old business - New keys for the file cabinet, boiler room and storage lockers were issued.

A motion was made and passed to discontinue our Post Office box. We have a mailbox at the club that is sufficient for our needs.

New business - A motion was made and passed to send a registered letter to the Little People's College next door voicing our complaint over their use of our yard and the damage we are incurring. The Board of Directors will address this issue at their next meeting.



A motion was made and passed to auction off a Tri-Band beam antenna donated to the club by "Rocky" Pimentel, K1VJZ. This will be done at a future date.

Three former members were reinstated as full members: Charles Days, WA1JFD; Manual Jorge, KA1ZYT, and William Rovas, WA1APX/8.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm. Follow-

ZERO BEAT

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 Southeastern Massachusetts
 Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
 54 Donald Street, PO Box 80007
 South Dartmouth, MA 02748

EDITOR

William M. Miller Jr. K1IBR
 Phone: (508) 996-2969
 E-Mail: k1ibr@ih.net

ADVERTISING

Commercial ads the size of a business card will be accepted. Rates are \$5.00 for one insertion, \$20.00 for six insertions, and \$35.00 for twelve insertions.

Non-commercial ads up to forty words in length will be accepted. Rate is \$3.00 for one or \$12.00 for six insertions. Club members have one free non-commercial ad per month.

THANK YOU! ERIC TARINI

Eric Tarini, N1YNT, of Marion, Ma recently donated to the club several sets of Morse code tapes, books on electronics, and copies of the last two years of CQ, QST, and CQ/VHF. Thanks, Eric, for the generous donation.

FOR SALE

Alinco DR-112
 2 meter mobile radio, with mike & manual. Excellent condition.
 Asking \$250

Bill Vincent, N1LTY
 (508) 992-1026

MEETING- continued from page one

ing the meeting, a 50/50 money raffle was held and several radio "goodies" and mystery boxes were auctioned off. The winner of the 50/50 money raffle (\$18) was Bill Vincent, N1LTY.

Finally an auction was held to sell the following donated items: An SWR meter donated by Dick Simpkin, WA1CRA; an old Jones Inline Wattmeter and Hallicrafters Modulation Monitor that was donated by "anonymous"; a commercial band transceiver donated by Ted Przymeirski, N1XXQ; and three "Mystery" boxes donated by Henry Blanchett, W1GYL; Bob Metivier, N1XZJ; and "Rocky" Pimentel, K1VJZ. Thanks fellows for the great donations!



The auction netted \$64.00 including revenue from Bob Metivier and Chris Smith who charged members \$1.00 each for a "peek" into the mystery boxes they bought. Imagine that! Members paid a buck to see what they missed out on! Gee, I wonder what was in the big box Bob bought?



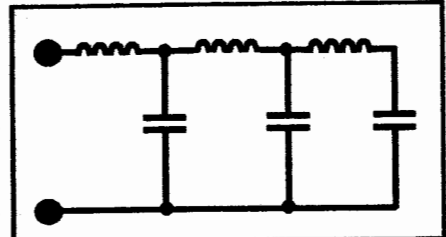
NEXT SEMARA VE SESSION

August 1, 1998
 Saturday, 10:30 AM

LOCAL VE SESSIONS IN AUGUST

- 08 Falmouth, MA
 Joanne Reid
 508-548-1121
- 10 Brookline, MA
 Bob Wondolowski
 508-865-5822
- 13 Providence, RI
 Judy Nelson
 401-231-9156
- 19 Cambridge, MA
 Nick Alterndburned
 617-253-3776
- 22 Plymouth, MA
 Bob Allen
 508-224-8513

NAME THAT CIRCUIT



- 1. "PT" filter
- 2. Broadband coupler
- 3. Phantatron
- 4. Pulse network

ANSWER - See Page 6


NOQUOCHOKE ORCHARDS

594 Drift Road, Westport, MA 02790
 (508) 636-2237



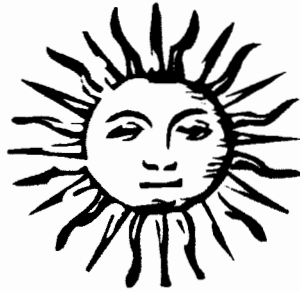
Apples - Pears - Peaches
 Sweet Apple Cider - Squash
 Westport Macomber Turnips
 Hay & Custom Work

"There is no likelihood man can ever tap the power of the atom."
 Robert Millikan
 Nobel Prize
 in Physis, 1923



CLUB NOTES

August is usually one **HOT** month. The grass gets browned out, people get tanned out, and everyone wishes that fall will arrive early. August also has no major holidays to celebrate. Hang in there! Fall will be here soon.



During the July business meeting, the membership unanimously voted to accept **Michael Reale, KB1CHQ**, a member of the association. Welcome to the club, Mike!

Welcome

Members that attend the **M**amateur fleamarkets should note two important date changes: **Boxboro** is now scheduled for August 28-30, and **Rochester, NH** is slated for October 9-10. Be sure to mark your calendar!



OVERSIGHT

Due to an unforgivable lapse of memory, your editor neglected to mention that **John Carreiro, W1ZYV**, donated a coaxial switch that was raffled off to benefit the club following the June business meeting. Thanks John, for the valuable donation.

Thanks, John!

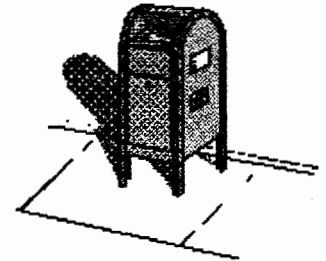
A hearty "welcome back" is extended to three former members who were reinstated as full members at the last business meeting: **Charles Days, WA1JFD**; **Manual Jorge, KA1ZYT**, and **William J. Rovas, WA1APX/8**.



Members are urged to please notify the club treasurer of any change in their mail or E-Mail address. It is important that the membership database be as accurate as possible. (Several members have changed E-Mail addresses without notifying the club.)



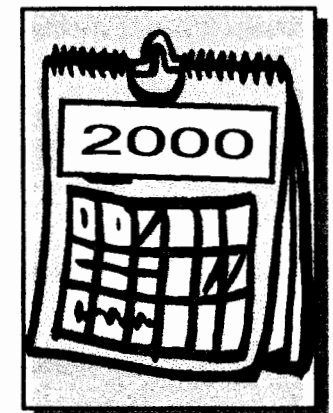
Since we are speaking of address changes, please note that the club voted to discontinue the Post Office Box 80007 in South Dartmouth. All future correspondence should be sent to 54 Donald Street, South Dartmouth, MA 02748.



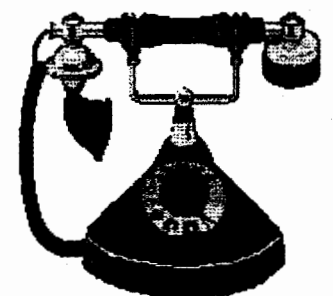
Worried about the year 2000 and its impact on your computer? Either search the internet, or try these sites:

- http://www.nstl.com/html/ymark_2000.html
- <http://www.year2000.com>
- <http://www.y2k.com>

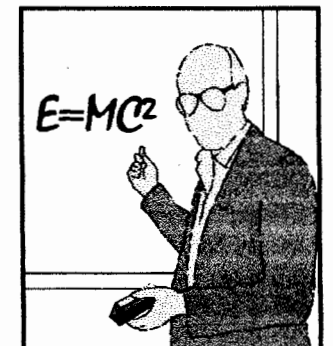
The first site has a diagnostic test that can be downloaded for free.



Lately several members have been using the repeater's autopatch without first identifying with their station's call letters. All members are reminded to please broadcast their call **BEFORE** using the autopatch function. Thank You!



You might notice a few changes in the clubhouse as we get ready to conduct the next licensing class. There is a new wall clock, an instructor identification board next to the whiteboard, and a coaxial cable under the whiteboard leading to a 2 meter antenna on our main tower.



LIGHTHOUSE & LIGHTSHIP ACTIVITY WEEKEND AUGUST 22 AND 23, 1998

In an effort to publicize amateur radio and underscore the common international aspect of amateur radio and lighthouses all around the world, a Lighthouse & Lightship Activity Weekend is scheduled to take place from 0001 UTC on Saturday, August 22nd, until 2359 UTC, Sunday, August 23rd. Lighthouses and lightships all over the globe will be operating on the amateur bands over the weekend. In many cases amateurs are conducting field trips to put historic lighthouses "on the air".

The event is not a contest (although awards are available) and there are no restrictions on power or operating modes. The event is planned mainly as a "fun" event to publicize amateur radio and lighthouses around the world. Lighthouses and lightships participating in the event have been requested to add the suffix 'LIGHT', 'LGT', 'LIGHTHOUSE', or 'LIGHTSHIP' after their call. The event will take place on the 5 "classic" amateur radio bands; 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

For those interested in wallpaper, an award is available to those stations that work several lighthouses/lightships. The award (diploma) is granted by OZ7DAL, Danish Amateur Lightship, located onboard 'FYRSHIB XXI'. Complete details on this award and all other aspects of this great event are posted on the clubhouse bulletin board. Our thanks go out to Mike Dalrymple, GM4SUC, of Ayr, Scotland, for providing full information about this event.

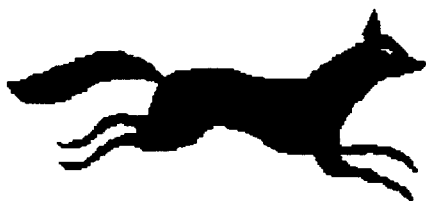
U.S. LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS SCHEDULED FOR THE EVENT

K0HB	Split Rock Lighthouse on the north shore of Lake Superior.
K1USN	USS Salem
K2AA	Lightship LV79 in New Jersey.
NA2V	Staten Island Lighthouse (Staten Island ARA - tentative)
W2GSA	Twin Lights Lighthouse (Garden State ARA)
W2SGB	Fire Island Lighthouse (Great South Bay ARC)
NJ6VT	USS Pampanito
W7BU	Lightship Columbia at Astoria, Oregon
KL7AA	??? (Anchorage ARC)
KC8ELY	??? (Great Lakes AR Rovers)



LIGHTHOUSE AMATEUR RADIO FREQUENCIES

80 METERS	CW: 3.510 - 3.540 (3.521+/-)	PHONE: 3.650 - 3.750 (3.721+/-)
40 METERS	CW: 7.005 - 7.035 (7.021+/-)	PHONE: 7.040 - 7.100 (7.051+/-)
20 METERS	CW: 14.010 - 14.040 (14.021+/-)	PHONE: 14.125 - 14.275 (14.221+/-)
15 METERS	CW: 21.010 - 21.040 (21.021+/-)	PHONE: 21.150 - 21.250 (21.221+/-)
10 METERS	CW: 28.010 - 28.040 (28.021+/-)	PHONE: 28.300 - 28.400 (28.351+/-)



**JULY FOXHUNT WON BY
RICK, N1RFI, AND ED, N1XTT**

Six teams set out on July 9th to find the "fox", none other than **Marty Jordan, KA1YFV**, and **Bill Field, WA1FYF**. Marty and Bill picked an excellent hiding place that proved difficult to find. (Especially difficult since they made short transmissions and used a walkie with batteries that faded as the night went on! But that's another story.)

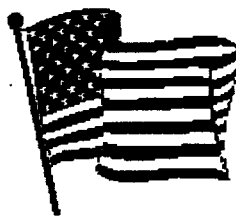
For some strange reason, the fox was putting in a strong signal about two miles south of his actual location. Talk about confusion! This caused the hunters to roam around the old Berkshire-Hathaway mills and waste precious time, when in fact the fox was hidden two blocks west of Union and County streets, in the city of New Bedford.

Rich, N1RFI, and **Ed, N1XTT**, found the fox first, and therefore will be next months fox. Next to zero in on the fox was **Glenn, N1ZBJ**, and his son Nick. It was a long time before the remaining hunters zoomed in for the kill. In fact, it was about two hours! Third place went to **Bill, K1IBR**, and **Ted, N1XXQ**. The last to find the fox was **Henry, W1GYL** and **Bob, N1XZJ**.



Bill, N1LTY, and **Ed, KA1AW**, snuck off to Friendly's during the hunt, and **Charlie, WA1JFD**, and his wife (using a borrowed walkie and loop) almost found the fox before the hunt ended. They were only a few blocks away from the fox at the time the hunt ended.

As usual, all fox hunters met at Friendly's Ice Cream shop for coffee, sandwiches and small talk following the hunt. It turned out that nobody had to "pack a lunch" as was recommended by Marty last month when he was on the "soapbox". All in all, a great time was had by all. See you at next month's foxhunt!



**HELP
OUR
VETERANS**

Donald H. Loader, N1WEP, sent the club a flyer with information distributed by the Pilgrim Amateur Wireless Association in Taunton, MA.

There are over 84,000 veterans confined to VA hospitals in the United States. The hobbies of stamp and coin collecting are used as part of their rehabilitation and therapy.

The Veterans Stamp and Coin Club, a non-profit group of volunteers, seeks donations of new and used U.S. and foreign stamps (both "on" and "off" paper), U.S. coins and paper money, sports cards, and similar items related to the hobbies. The donations are not sold or traded, and are only given to veterans to aid their rehabilitation and recovery. Full details are posted at the club.

Donations can be sent to:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Center

Veteran's Stamp and Coin Club

3601 South 6th Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85723

**"KEEP OUT" & "NO PARKING"
SIGNS POSTED ON CLUB PROPERTY**

In an effort to deter the general public from using our property as a community parking lot, "Keep Out" and "No Parking" signs were erected on each side of the driveway entrance. An additional sign was erected in the field behind the clubhouse.

The signs worked! Checks of the property in the days following the erection of the signs found no cars parked on our property. Additionally, the large garbage disposal container that was accessed via our driveway has been moved to another location!

Now we can get to work and repair the ruts in the grass caused by trucks and busses turning around on our property. Finally it will be a joy to cut grass with the riding mower without having your insides tossed about. And once we get the driveway returned to normal, it should last a long, long time.

Thanks go out to **Henry Blanchett, W1GYL**, who not only donated the signs, but also installed them.

APRS EXPLAINED AT JULY TECH-TALK

The July Tech-Talk outlined the various features of the APRS system - which is best described as enhanced packet radio. Rob Macedo, KD1CY, (with the help of Tony Duarte, N1XRS, operating from his home) demonstrated how the APRS system works.

Each APRS station appeared on the computer screen with an identifying icon overlaid on a map of Eastern Massachusetts. It was noted that when mobile stations are equipped with a GPS receiver interface, they actually move on the map as their location changes!

One neat feature of the APRS system was how it handled radiograms. When you setup to send a radiogram, the actual form appears on the computer's screen. As you enter the data the form is filled in! Incoming messages appear as a form also.

The APRS system can also automatically broadcast weather information from home based weather stations. This makes it invaluable for Skywarn use. It was one of the most interesting and informative Tech-Talks to date!



BITS - N - PIECES



Compiled from The ARRL Letter, a publication of the American Radio League, and Ham Radio Online magazine, available free on the Internet at <http://www.hamradio-online.com>

IS HAM RADIO "FOR THE BIRDS?"

This spring while putting up a 60 foot tower for Bob Poirier, KØDJ, in Sinclair, Wyoming, a group of hams noticed a small bird perched on a tower guy wire. Upon closer examination they realized the bird was a pet cockatiel!

A non-ham helper, Dave Trujillo, climbed all the way back up the tower and successfully coaxed the bird to come to him! He quickly snatched the bird and brought it down to safety.

The owner of the missing cockatiel was located and was surprised to get her bird back. Mary Eaton, owner of the bird, commented that it was half of a breeding pair and she was very pleased to get it back.



SCANNER PROPOSALS COULD HURT HAMS

The ARRL has filed comments relative to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ET Docket 98-76).

In an effort to prevent access to cellular telephone frequencies, the FCC has proposed scanner regulations that amount to severe regulatory "overkill". The regulations would impact amateur radio operators by prohibiting "scan" features in amateur radios. Converters and transverters are also prohibited by the proposed rulemaking!



The FCC also proposed that frequency control circuits be "potted" or "encapsulated" to prevent alterations that would allow access to cellular frequencies.

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC asking that the "unreasonably limiting" rules be relaxed and that the amateur radio service be exempt from the proposed regulations.

LOCAL RADIO HISTORY NOTES by Dr. Norman Riley, W1ATI

In 1921 WDAU, the 11th commercial radio station in the country, began broadcasting. Today most of us know the station as WNBH. In 1925 WDAU moved from its original location on Water Street to the New Bedford hotel, and changed its call letters to WNBH. (*New Bedford Hotel!*)

The transmitter for WNBH was located on the Atlas Tack property in Fairhaven, MA. The radio station antenna was secured to the chimney of Atlas Tack. Power was generated at the site by a steam driven generator. Burt Hill, a steam engineer, not only oversaw steam operations at Atlas Tack, but was also involved with a steam driven generator at Colonel Green's estate in South Dartmouth, MA. It is believed the generators powered the radio stations at both sites.

Beginning in 1923, Colonel E. H. R. Green operated radio station WMAF from his estate at Round Hill in South Dartmouth. On top of Round Hill he had large speakers mounted in all directions so the local folks could park their cars around the bottom of the hill and listen to the radio broadcasts.

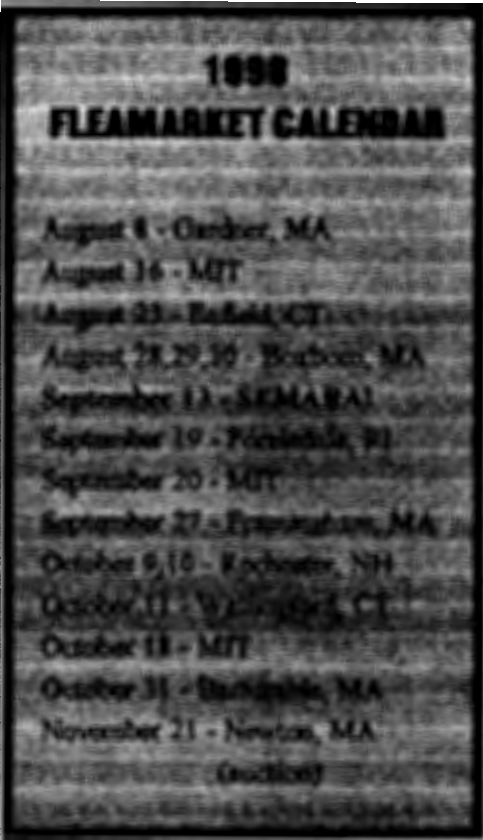
Entwined with this history is Irving Vermilya, a name familiar to most old timers. Not only was Irving active in local commercial radio ventures, but he also held the first amateur radio license issued in the United States.

Our club was stated in 1932 by Allen Cooper. The club's original name was the New Bedford Amateur Radio Association, and the call sign was W1XF. In 1946 the club changed its name to the Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association (SEMARA) in keeping with the area from which its members came. In 1950 the club's call was changed to W1AEC in memory of club member Kenneth Dwyer who was lost at sea.

As the above notes indicate, the greater New Bedford area was a pioneer in both commercial and amateur radio!

TECHNICAL TIPS

Incandescent lamp life is an inverse function of the fifth power of its voltage. That is why a lamp glows dimly as you slowly increase the voltage to it, and finally achieves full brilliance at its rated voltage. If you exceed the rated voltage the lamp gets brighter but soon blows out. You can take advantage of this property of incandescent lamps and extend the life of your panel lamps. This is especially welcome for lamps in hard to access locations. All you need do is place a small resistor in series with each lamp to reduce its voltage. You will be surprised to find that a 12 volt lamp lights up fine on 10 volts, yet will last about 2½ times longer! (Note - Most small lamps last 500 to 3,000 hours at rated voltage.)



NET DIRECTORY

—Sunday—
 8am 28.375 SEMARA NET
 9:30am 50.225 Yankee SSB
 3pm 28.470 UFO
 7pm 147.000+ Swap Net

— 4th Sunday —
 9pm 449.575 EM-ARRL

— Daily —
 5:30pm 3.915 EM/RI NTS ssb
 7&10pm 3.658 EM/RI NTS cw
 6:45pm 147.315+ NTS/Trivia
 7pm 146.550 SEMARA NET
 8pm 145.230- EM-NTS

— Monday to Friday —
 8am 14.262 UFO
 8pm 145.490- Weather

— Saturday & Sunday —
 8am 7.237 UFO

— Thursday —
 7pm 14.264 UFO
 8pm 147.180+ Trivia

— Saturday —
 7:30pm 3.978 UFO
 1800G 14.300 Coast Guard

VISIT THE SEMARA WEBSITES



WWW.LRH.NET/SEMARA/SEMARA.HTM

MEMBERS.AOL.COM/RICABRAL/HAM/SEMARA

—ARES NET—

1st & 15th of the month
 at 7:30 pm
 147.000+ on the 1st
 145.490- on the 15th

SEMARA OFFICERS

1998



President Richard J. Cabral, N1RFH
Vice-President Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM
Secretary Henry Blanchett, W1GYL
Treasurer John Carreiro, W1ZYV

Board of Directors:

Bradford Anselmo, N1VUF
 Lawrence R. Houbre Jr., AA1FS
 William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR

Trustees:

Andrew Reuter, WA1FNM- Chairman
 William M. Miller Jr., K1IBR
 Norman Riley, W1ATI
 Frank Fonseca, WB1ASD
 Martin F. Jordan, KA1YFV

SEMARA EVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST 1998

- 1 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 6 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 10 - Instructors Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 13 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 20 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - "Tesla Coils!"
by Bill Miller, K1IBR

**Coffee Hour at the clubhouse every
 Sunday at 9:00 am
 Drop by and ragchew!**

SEPTEMBER 1998

- 3 - Business Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 5 - VE Session, 10:30 am
- 10 - 2 Meter Foxhunt @ clubhouse, 7:00 pm
- 13 - SEMARA FLEAMARKET
(VE Session, 10:00 am)
- 17 - Tech-Talk, 7:00 pm - "The Internet"
(technical aspects and design)
by Tim Smith, N1BTQ
- 26 - VE Session, 10:30 am (Fall National
Exam Day)

LOCAL REPEATER DIRECTORY


Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
144			
145.150 -		WAIDGW	Fall River
145.490 -		KA1WBF	Fairhaven
146.445 +1Mhz	91.5	KB1BWN	Dartmouth
146.655 -	88.5	WA1GPO	Falmouth
146.685 -		N1OEG	Plymouth
146.700 -		K1CR	Cranston, RI
147.000 +		W1AEC	Dartmouth
147.045 +		WA1AIC	Yarmouth
147.135 +	67.0	ND1N	Taunton
147.180 +	77.0	N1FDX	Bridgewater
147.315 +	156.7	N1BBT	Wareham
220			
224.340 -		N1SGK	Dennis

Frequency	CTCSS	Call	Location
440			
441.400 +	192.8	WG1U	Assonet
442.200 +		N1NRL	Fall River
442.350 +	141.3	N1QWW	New Bedford
442.600 +	100.0	K1LIQ	Tiverton, RI
443.450 +	88.5	K1MYL	Westport
443.600 +		NS1N	Norwell
443.800 +	88.5	N1RFH	Dartmouth
443.850 +	131.8	W1ARM	Chatham
444.250 +	141.3	WA1GPO	Falmouth
444.550 +		N1FDX	Bridgewater
447.075 -		N1DZD	Kingston

NAME THAT CIRCUIT ANSWER: 4. Pulse network

Please support these fine sponsors of our newsletter

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Anniversary
Birthdays



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Cake Consultant
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Sourmel
Espresso*



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Muffins
Cream Cheeses*

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(508) 992-3064

Also serving fine deli lunches

SEMARA

Southeastern Massachusetts Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
54 Donald Street, PO Box 80007
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FIRST CLASS

*Scanned by N1TI
January 2011*